

ACTIONS COMMON TO THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES B, C, AND E

A number of actions supporting the park's stated purpose and significance are proposed in all action alternatives. These common actions are described below and are not repeated in the individual descriptions of the alternatives.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Priorities

Several broad strategies have been identified to help guide and set priorities for managing natural resources at Isle Royale. The primary goal of natural resource management is to preserve the ecological integrity of Isle Royale. This goal requires an understanding of park resources as well as adequate resource protection. General strategies include:

- complete the inventories of natural resources for baseline information. These inventories are necessary for the park to effectively protect the resources and serve as a natural laboratory for research. Highest priorities would include:

Lake Superior fisheries — as part of Isle Royale's significance, the fishery is important as an exceptional natural resource and as part of the island's cultural history

water and air quality — fundamental to the island's research role and the wilderness character of the island, there are suspected threats to both air and water quality that should be understood

reptiles, amphibians, mollusks, and snails — consistent with the park's role as a research baseline, knowledge of these species at Isle Royale could offer insights into the decline of these populations elsewhere in the world

insects — very little is known about the many insect species found in the Isle Royale

ecosystem, including the potentially rare species

rare plants — about 70 rare plant species are found in the park, yet extensive areas in the park remain unsurveyed for these fragile populations, including visitor use areas

- retain and expand the park's monitoring of resource trends; systematic, scheduled monitoring would document changes in species or communities and provide direction for research and management

- investigate ways to contribute to and benefit from regional ecosystem management and protection efforts, such as the Binational Program to Protect and Restore the Lake Superior Basin, Great Lakes Regional Air Quality Partnership, and Man and the Biosphere (U. S. Biosphere Reserve) Programme

- support the Canadian Marine Sanctuary Program, which could establish a marine sanctuary abutting the park's northern boundary

- develop a fisheries management program to define the surveys and monitoring required for Lake Superior fisheries as well as management actions for inland fisheries

- establish a research advisory board to identify and set priorities for natural resource research, using the park's significance and emphasis statements and natural resource management goals and strategies for guidance; this could lead to partnerships that would encourage research

- convene a panel of NPS and other subject matter experts to identify and evaluate potential actions for management of the wolf population if viability becomes a concern

- develop a water resource management plan to address water quality concerns in the park, identifying monitoring and research needs, key

habitat areas, development of a contaminants monitoring scheme, and other related projects

- conduct research to determine baseline levels of petroleum hydrocarbons in Lake Superior waters and sediments

Mitigation

Disturbance of vegetation in construction areas would be held to a minimum or would take place in previously disturbed areas. Mitigation would reduce impacts to the minimum necessary to accomplish objectives and would include careful site selection, salvaging topsoil and plant materials, and rehabilitation of disturbed areas. Whenever facilities were removed, the disturbed areas would be rehabilitated and revegetated with native species. Only native plants and seed sources proximate to the disturbed site would be used in rehabilitation and revegetation efforts.

Several sites with existing docks proposed for public use, such as Wright Island and Crystal Cove, may historically have had loon nesting activity. If ongoing research confirms that these locations are potential loon nesting sites, mitigation actions (such as increased educational efforts or temporary dock closures during loon nesting periods) would be implemented.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

General strategies have been identified for management of cultural resources at Isle Royale. The primary goal of cultural resource management is to understand, preserve, and interpret the history of human experience on the island.

Specific strategies for management of certain structures and landscapes are described in the various alternatives. Alternative C would remove all historic structures. In general the other action alternatives would retain historic structures if they were eligible for listing on the national register and a potential use was

identified. Priority for adaptive use would be given to structures in nonwilderness areas. Partnerships would be sought for preservation and adaptive use of historic structures. As life-lease properties come under NPS management, the specific actions for each property would be identified on a case-by-case basis. Criteria for selecting specific actions would be based on wilderness status, national register eligibility, condition of structures, importance to cultural landscapes, and the suitability and potential for adaptive uses by the park.

Decisions regarding the identification and treatment of historic properties will follow NPS *Management Policies*. The planning and implementation of preservation treatments, such as rehabilitation for adaptive use, would be undertaken in accordance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and as set forth in the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation guidelines in 39 CFR 800 and the servicewide programmatic agreement among the National Park Service, the advisory council, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers. All historic preservation treatments would follow the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*.

Priorities

Strategies would include:

- complete inventory and documentation of cultural resources on the island; areas of particular focus would include:

archeological sites — both terrestrial and underwater sites are of concern and represent the maritime and mining heritage of the island. Inventories would be particularly important in areas of potential disturbance such as campgrounds and busy boating areas.

cultural landscapes — landscapes related to maritime, mining, commercial fishing, and

resort era stories are important to understanding and interpreting island history.

ethnographic resources — the island was important to Native American groups. More information is needed about their historic and modern uses.

lighthouses — when the lighthouses come under NPS management, the first priority would be to determine the feasibility of management and preservation options.

shipwrecks — shipwrecks would be open for scuba diving under the current diving permit system. Charter diving services would continue to be available. The park would continue efforts to monitor and protect the shipwrecks and in cooperation with partners such as the Great Lakes Shipwreck Preservation Society would continue shipwreck documentation and would evaluate additional stabilization and restoration projects.

- research specific gaps in Isle Royale's cultural history, including: early use of the island (7000 B.C. – 1000 B.C.); fur trapping and trade; fire history; logging history; fishing; and the park's administrative history (including the reasons for locations of facilities, residential history, and the chronology of visitor uses such as diving and concessions history).

- retain and expand the monitoring program to ensure protection of cultural resources, particularly where they are used (such as at shipwrecks). Because cultural sites, such as mining remains and fishing camps, can be an important part of the wilderness experience, sites would be monitored to ensure perpetuation of that experience.

- cooperate with partners to set standards for and carry out preservation treatment of shipwrecks based on the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*.

A number of special studies are needed to fill gaps in the knowledge of human use and activity on the island. For example, evidence of various prehistoric cultures using the island during the same time period raises questions. Did the island function as neutral ground? Were resources allocated in different ways for different groups? Was the island's bounty accessible to all equally? Did the island serve as a haven in times of conflict and confusion or starvation on the mainland? The majority of archeological sites have been identified by shovel testing and have not been excavated, so there is potential for much additional information.

The park does not have knowledge or evidence of current use by Ojibwa and has little documentation of their historic use. The modern uses of the island by the native people should be identified so that the park can work with the tribes in managing the resources that they may be using.

Mitigation

For actions that could involve ground disturbance or affect structures and/or landscapes that are either on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the Michigan Historic Preservation Office would be consulted regarding impacts on these cultural resources. In the case of ground disturbance, an archeological survey would be undertaken to determine the extent and significance of the archeological resource before any ground disturbance occurs. Any impacts on cultural resources would be avoided if possible. If this is not possible, mitigation measures would be developed by the park in consultation with the Michigan Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

VISITOR USE

Accessibility

In developed zones all new structures would be accessible to people with disabilities. Existing structures would be modified to meet accessibility standards as funding allowed or as the facilities were replaced or rehabilitated. Accessibility standards on visitor transportation vessels and aircraft would be met within the limits of marine and aircraft design and safety requirements.

In campgrounds, some outhouses and shelters would be made accessible. However, the terrain and other natural conditions will continue to be challenging. The park would continue to work with organizations that encourage and enable use of wilderness areas by special populations. This sharing of ideas would increase awareness of the needs of these populations and help to ensure that potential visitors with particular needs are aware of the opportunities offered by Isle Royale.

Visitation Levels / Carrying Capacity

The Park Service is required by law to address carrying capacity in planning for parks. Each general management plan must include identification of and implementation commitments for visitor carrying capacities for all areas of the unit. The proposed action and each of the action alternatives assume that managers would take action to keep visitation levels in line with the goals of the alternative and would maintain quality visitor experiences and resource protection.

Interpretation, Information, and Education

Some actions related to interpretation, information, and education programs vary by alternative. In all alternatives, however, programs would emphasize understanding and appreciating the resources of the park.

More detailed planning would be undertaken to improve visitor information facilities and services on the island consistent with the intent of each alternative.

Education outreach efforts would be strengthened to reach local, regional, and national school groups, interested organizations, and park visitors prior to their trips to the island. To help visitors form realistic expectations and to teach them how to conduct themselves compatibly with park purposes, advance trip planning would be emphasized with each user group (such as motorboaters, paddlers, and backpackers) and with organized groups such as the Boy Scouts. Programs would emphasize wilderness and “leave no trace” values and principles, and special advance certification could be granted to individuals completing a park awareness program. The potential of accomplishing these goals through the Internet would be explored.

The park staff would continue to assist writers, publishers, and researchers with park-related materials and would make the products available to the public. The park would assist educational institutions with development of programs that promote and support park emphasis statements and reduce impacts on resources.

The park staff would develop interpretive media supportive of park emphasis statements such as exhibits, publications, videos, interpretive talks, interactive computers, and presentations. On-island programs, if appropriate, would emphasize dialogue between visitors and park staff to encourage understanding and interchange about issues facing the park. For example, information about advances in clean engine technology would be shared with the public. Programs would support park goals and emphasis statements.

The park staff would seek partnerships with other U.S. and Canadian parks on Lake Superior as well as with educational institutions, clubs, and organizations to enrich interpretation and educational opportunities regionwide.

Other Uses

Use of personal watercraft (jet skis) would not be permitted in the park. Such uses are inconsistent with the park purpose, significance, and emphasis statements. If necessary, specific regulations would be developed. Use of aircraft to access the island would continue to be restricted and present landing zones would not be expanded. The use of aircraft for sightseeing is incompatible with wilderness. Because of the potential demand on the island's limited infrastructure and visitor experience impacts (crowding and noise), cruise ships (defined as commercial vessels carrying more than six paying passengers) are also considered incompatible with park goals.

The park would work to reduce noise from passenger ferry whistles and would encourage the reduction of commercial aircraft overflights to reduce noise and visual impacts. Administrative no-wake areas would continue to be established as needed to protect docked boats and park resources, such as loon nests.

Native American Treaty Rights

Several bands of Lake Superior Chippewa have rights guaranteed by various treaties in the geographic area in which Isle Royale and Isle Royale National Park are located. Treaty rights are beyond the scope of this plan; however, any actions taken to implement the plan must conform to the law regarding these rights. To ensure that it honors legally established rights, the National Park Service would cooperate with those tribes that retain valid hunting, fishing, and gathering rights. The National Park Service would routinely consult with tribes having treaty rights and their designated representatives on a government-to-government basis.

PARK OPERATIONS

Docks to remain (according to each alternative) would be repaired or replaced as needed.

The MV *Ranger III* would continue to provide transportation and freight service to Isle Royale National Park. Its schedule and purpose are designed to support park operations; services to the concessioner and passengers are secondary and increases in these services are not anticipated. The *Ranger III* will be rehabilitated during the winter of 1998-1999. New engines, bow thrusters, electrical panels, and sound dampening will be installed. The main deck restroom will be made accessible to people with disabilities. Other general improvements in appearance will be made.

The park would continue to be closed from November 1 to April 15 for the benefit and protection of wildlife and for visitor and employee safety.

Park management would continue to work toward more sustainable operations, including purchasing water- and energy-conserving systems and machinery. The park would take a leadership role in using less polluting, quieter boats as current equipment was upgraded or replaced.

A separate study would be conducted to develop and evaluate options for improving the Houghton headquarters, which houses such functions as visitor information, ticketing and fee collection, administration, and maintenance. The current facilities are too small to serve park operations and respond to visitor needs. The new study would be guided by the following requirements: headquarters must remain in the Houghton / Hancock area; facilities must be consolidated for efficiency; the site must have a minimum of 500 feet of waterfront deep enough for docking the *Ranger III*, and the site must be visible to and easily accessible for visitors. Primary functions and needed spaces for the headquarters facility would include:

- visitor orientation (including other nearby NPS units); overall park interpretation, education, and orientation, office space, storage
- natural history association office, storage, and sales
- ticketing, fee collection, reservations
- collections storage
- park administration (including Keweenaw National Historical Park) office space, storage
- maintenance warehousing, shops (auto, boat, general), garage
- *Ranger III* dock and support, warehousing, freight handling, baggage, recycling, hazardous waste, solid waste
- concessioner support
- barge support storage, handling (loading/unloading)
- employee support; meeting rooms, lunchroom
- parking
- museum storage

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

The park boundary is adequate to support park purposes. No boundary adjustments are proposed in any of the GMP alternatives.

CONCESSIONS AND OTHER COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Several companies provide visitor services. The primary concessioner, National Park Concessions, Inc., manages the facilities at Rock Harbor and Windigo. Ferry and float plane services would continue in all alternatives, although some modifications could be made to control island access.

Charter fishing operators, currently authorized under incidental business permits, would be placed on limited concessions permits. This would allow the Park Service to better manage and protect the fishery by limiting the number of operators to current levels or below.

All other commercial activities, such as guided diving, hiking, and paddling trips, would continue under incidental business permits. To avoid resource damage and to ensure adequate opportunities for noncommercial users, the operating requirements of these permits could be adjusted annually to control the number of people that each permittee would be allowed to bring to the island on a single visit or cumulatively during the season.

Commercial activity on Isle Royale would be limited to avoid over-commercialization and excessive demand for use. Future concession contracts would emphasize consistency with Isle Royale's thematic character. For example, merchandise sold at the park and use of packaging and food and beverage containers would be in keeping with wilderness and sustainability concepts, natural and cultural history themes, and the character of Lake Superior.

IMPLEMENTATION PLANS TO FOLLOW THIS GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP) Plan

The VERP program, which is used to address carrying capacity for NPS units, consists of four key elements: (1) a parkwide management zoning scheme (established through evaluation of the alternatives) that defines visitor experience and resource condition goals for each area of the park, (2) selection of indicators that can be monitored to ensure that the goals are being met, (3) a systematic monitoring program, and (4) standards for each monitored indicator that is expected to warn when conditions merit management action. The first element will be accomplished as part of the general management plan. The other elements will be detailed in a VERP implementation plan or incorporated into the wilderness and back-country management plan described below.

For the *Draft General Management Plan* the status of park resources in visitor use areas was

assessed and visitors were surveyed about their expectations and experiences. Concerns related to crowding and use levels in different parts of the island were noted. Ongoing research will identify meaningful indicators and standards that can be used to ensure provision of quality experiences while protecting park resources. The indicators and standards will be developed, and the public will have an opportunity to comment on them.

Wilderness and Backcountry Management Plan

A wilderness and backcountry management plan is needed. It would guide management of wilderness resources and ensure consistency in such management over time. The plan would identify a process to determine the appropriate tools to use in wilderness, set priorities for campground and trail maintenance projects, and could incorporate the VERP implementation plan to address visitor use limits in wilderness, identify research and monitoring needs, outline how VERP will be implemented, and identify staffing needs.

Several areas on the island were not designated as wilderness in the park's wilderness legislation. Because of changes in park plans and needs, the wilderness and backcountry management plan would evaluate these areas for possible conversion to wilderness.

Resource Management Plan

The *Resource Management Plan* would be revised as needed to incorporate management direction provided by the general management plan. The revised plan would detail the status of the park's natural and cultural resource programs and would affirm and detail needs for research, inventories, monitoring, and other programs. Programs called for by the *General Management Plan* are detailed in Appendix B.

Water Resources Management Plan. Water resources management plans structure and use information about water resources and water-related environments to: (1) identify and analyze water resource issues and management concerns, (2) provide a detailed description of the hydrologic environment and summary of water resource information, and (3) assist management in developing and evaluating alternative actions for addressing water-related resource management issues over a 5–10 year period. Recommended management actions developed in the water resources management plan are then incorporated into the resources management plan.

Fisheries Management Plan. The objective of fisheries management in the National Park Service is to preserve or restore the natural behavior, genetic variability, diversity, and ecological integrity of fish populations. Fisheries management within the waters of Isle Royale National Park is the shared responsibility of the National Park Service and the state of Michigan. The fisheries management plan would provide a framework that the National Park Service and the state could use to enhance formal coordination and cooperation to identify issues and concerns, formulate management objectives, and implement inventory, monitoring, and management actions necessary to protect the fisheries.

Commercial Services Plan

The proposed action and alternatives contain proposals that could affect current or new contracts and permits used to manage commercial activities in the park. A commercial services plan is needed to provide specific guidance regarding these issues. A commercial services plan identifies those services that are necessary and appropriate to support the purpose and significance of the park. It also identifies the appropriate instrument (contract or permit) to be used and procedures to follow when managing the program. The plan would follow the direction provided in the general management

plan and be prepared as soon as that direction is available.

Comprehensive Interpretive Plan

This plan would provide detailed guidance on improvements to media, facilities, and education and outreach programs.

PARK MANAGEMENT ZONES

Management zones identify how different areas of the park could be managed to achieve a variety of resource and social conditions and serve recreational needs. Each zone specifies a particular combination of physical, biological, social, and management conditions. Different actions would be taken by the Park Service in different zones with regard to the types and levels of uses and facilities.

Nine possible zones have been described that could be appropriate to various areas on and around Isle Royale. Ideas for the range of zones came from responses to the newsletters and from park staff. In formulating alternatives for future park conditions and management, these zones were placed in different locations or configurations on the ground.

Some zones were applied only to areas outside designated wilderness (such as the developed zone), and some were applied either in or outside of designated wilderness (such as the backcountry zone). The characteristics of any zone applied inside wilderness are consistent with specified conditions such as avoidance of manmade intrusions and opportunities for solitude. The different zones illustrate that even in wilderness, experiences vary. The experience on a well-marked, maintained trail where encounters with a few other hikers would be expected is very different from a totally untrailed experience where any encounter might be intrusive. Zoning in wilderness allows for a range of experiences.

Land Zones (Including Inland Lakes)

Developed Zone.

Visitor Experience — In this highly developed zone, facilities would be convenient and accessible; there would be little need for visitors to physically exert themselves, use outdoor skills, or make a long time commitment to see the area. Opportunities for adventure would be relatively unimportant. These areas would provide many social experiences, and the probability of encountering other visitors or NPS staff would be very high.

Resource Condition or Character — The NPS tolerance for resource degradation would be moderate. Resources would be modified for visitor and park operational needs. Visitors and facilities would be intensively managed in this zone for resource protection and visitor safety. Although buildings, structures, and other signs of human activity would be fairly obvious, there would be natural elements present. The zone would not be in designated wilderness nor would it be located near sensitive natural or cultural resources if such resources could not be adequately protected. This zone would be confined to relatively small areas.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities — This land-based zone would include visitor and administrative facilities such as visitor centers, lodges, maintenance areas, and residences. Primary ferry landings, large docks, and marinas could be included in this zone. Paved paths and other walkways connecting facilities could be appropriate.

Frontcountry Zone.

Visitor Experience — Compared to most other zones, the frontcountry zone would offer visitors a fairly structured experience with onsite interpretation and education. Visitors would feel that they were in a natural park setting, but they would not be more than a typical day's hike or a short boat ride from developed facilities. To use

this area visitors would make a short time commitment and would have to physically exert themselves to some degree. There would be limited challenge or adventure, and there would be little need for outdoor skills. At certain times of day or season there would be opportunities for solitude, but in general the probability of encountering other visitors would be high; use levels at attractions could be limited to ensure quality interpretive experiences. The probability of encountering NPS staff would be moderate. These areas would provide ample opportunity for social interaction.

Resource Condition or Character — Visitors, sites, and trails would be intensively managed in the frontcountry zone to ensure resource protection and public safety. The areas in this zone would be predominantly natural, but the sights and sounds of people would be evident. The natural environment could be modified for essential visitor and park operation needs, but changes would harmonize with the natural environment. Except for essential changes, NPS tolerance for resource degradation would be low. This land-based zone could be in designated wilderness or in nonwilderness. The zone would not be near sensitive natural or cultural resources if such resources could not be adequately protected.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities — This zone would be comprised of heavily used areas adjacent to developed zones and heavily used trail corridors that access prime park features such as cultural sites or scenic areas. Relatively large campgrounds, hardened trails, and interpretive facilities and signs might be present in nonwilderness. Some trails might be accessible to visitors with disabilities.

Wilderness Portal Zone.

Visitor Experience — These portal or gateway areas would provide the access and facilities needed to experience or manage other zones, such as the backcountry and primitive zones. There could be pulses of activity, especially around the times of ferry or water taxi landings.

Mixing of different types of users would be common, and solitude and quiet would be available some of the time. Visitors would have some need for self-sufficiency, but adventure or challenge would be relatively unimportant.

Resource Condition or Character — NPS tolerance for resource degradation in this zone would be low. The zone would appear mostly natural, but there would be some evidence of human facilities and use. Resources could be altered for essential visitor and park operational needs, but alterations or facilities would blend with the natural environment. This zone could be located in designated wilderness or in nonwilderness and would be confined to relatively small areas. Like the developed and frontcountry zones, it would not be near sensitive natural or cultural resources if such resources could not be protected.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities — Facilities in this zone could include moderate-sized campgrounds with shelters, trailheads, trails, and docks. Secondary ferry landings could be located in this zone. Some interpretive activities could be appropriate when presented with sensitivity to the zone character.

Backcountry Zone.

Visitor Experience — The backcountry zone would provide a sense of being immersed in a natural landscape, and it would feel somewhat distant from most comforts and conveniences. There would be possibilities for challenge and adventure. Visitors would have to commit a block of time, have outdoor skills, and exert themselves. The probability of encountering other hikers would be moderate, and there would be a good chance of solitary experiences. There would be chances for social interaction. Quiet generally would be expected, but occasional noise would be tolerated.

Resource Condition or Character — The backcountry zone could be applied to trail corridors and areas of a somewhat more primitive nature than those in the frontcountry

zone. This land-based zone would be appropriate in designated wilderness areas. A relatively high level of management would be provided for resource protection and visitor safety. Some resource modifications would be evident, but they would harmonize with the natural environment. NPS tolerance for resource degradation would be low. Facilities would not be placed near sensitive resources that could not be protected.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities — This zone could include moderate to high-use trail corridors. Small campgrounds, small docks, and unpaved but maintained trails would be the only facilities.

Primitive Zone.

Visitor Experience — This zone would provide a sense of being immersed fully in nature and would feel farther away from comforts and conveniences than the frontcountry and backcountry zones. Opportunities for independence, closeness to nature, tranquility, and the application of outdoor skills would be common. The probability of encountering other visitors would be low. Use of this area would require a relatively long time commitment and a high level of physical exertion. The environment would offer a relatively high degree of challenge and adventure. Tolerance for noise, visual intrusions, and social interaction would be low.

Resource Condition or Character — The primitive zone could be applied to lightly used trail corridors and associated areas. It would be located in designated wilderness. A moderate level of management would be provided for resource protection and visitor safety. Subtle onsite controls and restrictions could be present, such as placing downed trees near trail edges, restricting off-trail use, and requiring that visitors demonstrate knowledge of environmental sensitivity before entering the zone. A few resource modifications could be evident, but they would harmonize with the natural environment. NPS tolerance for resource degradation due to visitor use in this zone would be

very low. Any facilities in the zone would avoid sensitive resources.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities — Facilities would be limited to primitive trails and small campsites with minimal facilities. Docks would not be located in this zone.

Pristine Zone.

Visitor Experience — Visitors to the pristine zone would experience a pure wilderness setting, free of development. There would be no facilities or trails. Little or no sign of humans would be evident. Use of this zone would require a relatively high degree of physical exertion and a long time commitment. The environment would offer challenge and adventure. Opportunities for independence, closeness to nature, tranquility, and the application of outdoor skills would be common. There would be a very low probability of encountering other visitors and little or no evidence of visitor impacts.

Resource Condition or Character — This zone would be the most natural of the land zones. It would be in designated wilderness and would encompass large areas. It could include areas where very low use is desirable to protect certain resources and areas of the park that are difficult to access. Management for resource protection and safety in the pristine zone would be very limited; the area would be managed in such a way that onsite controls and restrictions would be minimized and those that were present would be subtle. However, offsite management of visitors could be intensive and could include eligibility requirements before entering the zone and limits on length of stay in the area. NPS tolerance for resource modifications or degradation would be very low.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities — No facilities would be appropriate in this zone, including trails and docks. Cross-country hiking and camping would be permitted but regulated to protect resources.

Zones for Lake Superior Waters

Open Water Motorized Zone.

Visitor Experience — This zone would appear predominantly natural, but there would be evidence of human use and activity. There would be few restrictions on visitor activities. The probability of encountering other visitors could be high. There would be ample social contact and limited solitude. Visitors would expect to hear noise. The zone could be dangerous under certain conditions. Visitors traveling independently would have to be self-sufficient and would need marine skills because of the unpredictable nature of Lake Superior.

Resource Condition or Character — The mood and character of this zone would tend to change according to Lake Superior fog, rain, wind, and wave conditions. The zone could include most Lake Superior waters inside the park. It would be located away from resources that are sensitive to intense human activity or noise. Management would be the minimum necessary to ensure safety and resource protection.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities — Boating of all types, fishing, and scuba diving could be common.

Quiet/No-Wake Zone.

Visitor Experience — Motorboaters and others could find relatively tranquil, natural marine surroundings. The probability of encountering other visitors would be moderate, and solitude would be possible. Tolerance for noise would be very low. Any challenge would probably relate to navigating in difficult conditions. Visitors would have to be relatively self-sufficient.

Resource Condition or Character — This zone could be in sheltered Lake Superior harbors and bays where calm water and relative quiet are desirable for safety, resource, or visitor experience reasons. It might be appropriate in harbors or bays where waterbirds nest or where there are visitor centers or campgrounds. A

moderate level of management would be provided for resource protection and visitor safety. NPS tolerance for resource degradation would be low.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities — Human-powered and motor-powered watercraft could be found in this zone. Boats would travel at idling speed on flat water and leave no wake larger than prevailing sea conditions.

Nonmotorized Waters Zone.

Visitor Experience — This zone would provide visitors with an experience similar to that provided by the primitive land zone but in a water setting. Tolerance for noise and visual intrusions on the natural scene would be low. Few other visitors would be encountered.

Opportunities for independence, closeness to nature, tranquility, and application of outdoor skills would be common. Visitors would have to be self-sufficient.

Resource Condition or Character — This zone might include logical, secluded, protected routes for travel by human-powered watercraft only. It also might be applied to shallow water and sensitive resource areas. Narrow bays that are naturally buffered from outside noise could be candidates for this zone. There would be few restrictions, but access might be limited. NPS tolerance for resource impacts in this zone would be very low.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities — There would be few, if any, facilities in this zone. Kayaking and canoeing would be the most common activities. Boats with motors would not be permitted (not even NPS maintenance or patrol boats) except in emergency situations or when necessary for safe harbor in a storm.